THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. PRABHU): (a) and (b) Due to unfavourable weather conditions during the last three years in a row, fertilizer consumption has been below the targetted levels. As a result, the stocks of indigenous fertilizers have gone up. The prices of fertilizers paid by farmers are statutorily controlled and uniform thruoghout the country; it is much less than the cost of production. Moreover, the current prices are the same as prevailed in 1981.

(c) with a view to providing relief to the manufacturers, steps have been taken to ensure strict price discipline. It has also been decided not to release the imported stocks for sale, so long as indigenous stocks are available for meeting the entire demand. Besides, the import of nitrogenous and phosphatic fertilizers during the year has been drastically reduced.

Diversion of ICAR grants by agriculture Universities

779. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that the agriculture universities are often diverting grants given to them by the ICAR, violating prescribed guidelines;

(b) if so, how many universities have been found to be involved in such diversion of grants; and

(c) whether Government propose to empower the ICAR to deal with such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Diversion of funds meant for Central Schemes in Andhra Pradesh

780. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received many complaints of diversion of funds meant for Central Schemes like IRDP and NREP by the Government of Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) whether Government have investigated into the complaints and, if so, what is the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAMANAND YADAV): (a) and (b) The Comptroller & Auditor General of India in his report for 1983-84 pointed out among other things diversion of funds intended for IRDP for other purposes in Andhra Pradesh also. These related to purchase of lorry by Andhra Pradesh Meat & Poultry Development Corporation, van by Fisheries Department in Eluru DRDA, and jeep, milk tanker and machinery for pre-packing in Karimnagar DRDA.

The Government of India requested the State Government to look into the matter. The State Government in their reply stated that assistance for purchase of a lorry is a permissible item of infrastructure, linked with beneficiaries of the poultry complexes for supply of feed and collection of eggs by the Andhra Pradesh Meat & Poultry Development Corporation; and the fisheries van also had direct linkage with beneficiaries of IRDP for supply of feed and collection of fish. The items of expenditure in the Eluru DRDA were ratified/approved in the State Level Sanctioning Committee. For the items listted against Karimnagar, the State Government has stated that the expenditure was needed for infrastructural assistance for improving the marketing facility for IRDP beneficiaries and hence the funds were ratified by the State Level Sanctioning Committee.

In so far as National Rural Employment Programme is concerned, instances were reported in the past of diversion of NREP funds for works outside the scope of the programme. The state Governments were asked to recoup the amount to NREP account, which they have agreed to do.

Recently, the main complaint regarding division of resources given under the programme has been that rice supplied to the State under the programme is being diverted to public distribution system and is being utilised under the State Scheme of distributing rice at Rs. 2/- per kg. On coming to notice, this was objected by the Government of India last year. Thereupon, the State Government agreed to evolve a revised procedure which would ensure the distribution of rice to NREP|RLEGP workers as per their entitlements. Complaints have again been received that even after this, the rice supplied under NREP is being utilised under the State Scheme of distributing rice at Rs. 2/- per kg. and hence the diversion of funds provided for a central scheme is continuing. We have again written about this to the State Government.

Modernisation of Rourkela Steel Plant

781. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether West Germany have offered to aid India in modernisation of the Rourkela Steel Plant;

(b) if so, what are the details of the offer; and

(c) what is Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR): (a) to (c) The West German Government have indicated that they could be interested in the modrnisation of Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP). The matter of modalities of aid is under consideration of the Government of India.

RSP modernisation has not yet been posed formally to West German Government for financial assistance.

New policy for states prone to natural calamities

782. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:
SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have framed a new policy to help the States perenially struck by natural calamities like drought and floods;

(b) if so, what are the broad features thereof; and

(c) what steps have been taken to enforce the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) No general revision of policy for financing the States affected by natural calamities has been framed.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Uniformity in the enforcement of land reform measures

783. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:
DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken note of the fact that no uniformity has so far been followed in the different States and Union Territories in the matter of enforcing the land reform measures; and